

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 979

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to commemorate March 26, 2020, as Veterans Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, millions of citizens of this country who honorably served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange, a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical that enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Administration has compiled a list of illnesses that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may experience, including ischemic heart disease, multiple myeloma, lung and trachea cancer, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, peripheral neuropathy, chronic B-cell leukemia, early onset peripheral neuropathy, soft tissue sarcomas, hypertension, Parkinson-like symptoms, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Type 2 diabetes, AL amyloidosis, chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism; and

WHEREAS, veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange should recheck the list of illnesses and speak with their doctors and veterans' organizations to ensure they are receiving full benefits for any illness from which they may suffer; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States, and we owe them our full support, particularly in illnesses and injuries received in service to our country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate March 26, 2020, as Veterans Awareness Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.